



CLAN MACCALLUM - MALCOLM SOCIETY

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The Founding of the Clan Society

It has been over 50 years now since my uncle Andrew Burton McCallum (a U.S. Air Force veteran of WWII) began the process of planning how to start up a North American Clan Society for kinsmen and women of Scottish descent on either the male or female side with the surnames MacCallum or Malcolm and spelling variations (both names are from the Gaelic for Saint Columba of the Celtic Church).

The following chronology on the founding of the Clan Society by Andrew Burton McCallum of Winter Park, FL is based primarily on information provided by Donald R. McCallum, his son, and Brown McCallum, Jr. of Columbia, SC, the last surviving original officer of the society.



Andrew B. McCallum

Andrew B. McCallum first visited the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games at Linville, NC in 1964. He purchased his first kilt and other Scottish attire and a set of bagpipes in 1964/1965. He continued attending the Grandfather Mountain Games from 1965-1969, seeking other MacCallums and Malcolms to help him form a new Clan Society. He also first attended the Dunedin, FL Highland Games in 1967, seeking MacCallum/Malcolm kinsmen/women who would be interested in forming a new Clan Society. In 1970, Andrew joined the St. Andrew's Society of the Middle South. The new Clan Society was organized in 1970 at Grandfather Mountain at the St. Andrew's Society tent at the Games. The next step was to get approval from the Chief of the Clan in Scotland to form the new society!

On July 29, 1971, Andrew contacted Lt. Col. George Malcolm of Poltalloch, 18th Chief of the Clan in Scotland and the father of Robin N. L. Malcolm, asking for permission to form the Clan MacCallum-Malcolm Society of North America. On Aug. 2, 1971, Col. Malcolm granted permission to form the new Clan Society! This marks the official founding date of the Clan MacCallum-Malcolm Society of North America.

In July 1972, Brown and Righton McCallum first attended the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, and met Andrew McCallum, along with Jim McCollum, an attorney from Rochester, NY. This was the first organizational meeting to elect officers and get the new Society underway. The first officers were Andrew McCallum as President, Jim McCollum as VP, and Brown McCallum as Secretary/Treasurer. Righton McCallum took the responsibility as our first newsletter editor!

In July 1973 at the 18th annual Grandfather Mountain Games, the first Annual General Meeting of the newly formed Clan Society was held. The Constitution and Bylaws of the Clan Society were ratified at this meeting, and Brown McCallum was elected VP. In July 1974, Lt. Col. George Malcolm and his wife Muriel were the Guests of Honor at the 19th annual Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. The Clan Society gained new members and increased attention due to his visit.

At the AGM in 1974, the Clan Society adopted “The Rowan Tree” as its official bagpipe tune. Also, in the summer of 1974, the clan newsletter got a new name: “*The Argent Castle*”. This name was adapted from the heraldic description of the clan crest, “A castle, Argent”, which means a silver castle.

In 1975, Col. Malcolm contributed a stone from the “Rock of Dunadd”, a place where the ancient kings of Scotland were crowned, formerly on the Poltalloch Estate. This stone becomes a part of the Grandfather Mountain Memorial Cairn.

On March 20, 1976, Lt. Col. George Ian Malcolm of Poltalloch passed away. Robin Neill Lochnell Malcolm became the 19th Chief of the Clan.

In 1978, Andrew B. McCallum co-founded the Scottish-American Society of Central Florida and the Orlando (Central Florida) Games. In 1981, Andrew attended the International Gathering of the Clans in Scotland, where Chief Robin Malcolm named Andrew Lifetime Convener of the Clan MacCallum-Malcolm Society.

On December 5, 1983, Andrew B. McCallum passed away in Winter Park, Florida. In 2008, the Order of Merit (now named the Order of the Rowan Tree) was awarded posthumously to Andrew, and accepted by his son Donald at the Central Florida Scottish Games.

Prepared by Fred McCallum, Jr. with assistance from Donald McCallum, Brown & Righton McCallum.
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